

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 11-17, and 23-38 have been canceled.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended.

The amendment to Claims 1 and 9 is supported by the corresponding claims as originally filed and the specification throughout.

No new matter has been added by the present amendments.

REMARKS

Claims 3, 9, 10, and 18-22 are pending in the present application.

At the outset, Applicants wish to acknowledge Examiner Tsay's recognition that Claims 3 and 18-22 are allowable (page 7 of the Office Action mailed July 24, 2008). Reconsideration of the outstanding rejections is requested in view of the amendments and remarks herein.

The rejection of Claims 1, 2, 8, and 11-15 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) over Himmelsbach et al is obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of this ground of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. Nonetheless, to expedited examination, Claims 1, 2, 8, and 11-15 have been canceled. Therefore, this ground of rejection is believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The rejection of Claims 5-7 and 12-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Himmelsbach et al is obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of this ground of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. Nonetheless, to expedited examination, Claims 5-7 and 12-14 have been canceled. Therefore, this ground of rejection is believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The rejection of Claims 9, 10, 16, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Himmelspach et al is obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of this ground of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. Nonetheless, to expedited examination, Claims 16 and 17 have been canceled. In addition, Claims 9 and 10 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 3. Therefore, this ground of rejection is believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The objection of Claims 31-35 and 38 under 37 CFR §1.75 as being substantial duplicates of Claims 3 and 18-22 is obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of this ground of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. Nonetheless, to expedited examination, Claims 31-35 and 38 have been canceled. Therefore, this ground of objection is believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

The rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of this ground of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. Nonetheless, to expedited examination, Claim 2 has been canceled.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The objection to Claims 1-3 and 5-22 as reading on non-elected subject matter is obviated by amendment. The non-elected, non-rejoivable subject matter is believed to have been removed from the claims. Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

The objection to the specification is obviated by amendment. Withdrawal of this ground of objection is requested.

Applicants respectfully submit that the above-identified application is now in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.
Norman F. Oblon



Vincent K. Shier, Ph.D.
Registration No. 50,552

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-
3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/03)